

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5035  
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MEXOCI  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS CARACAS 7177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CU VE PFOR

SUBJ: CUBA: PRESIDENT PEREZ MAKES FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS ON  
ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS

REF: CARACAS 7095

1. DURING A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, JUST  
PRIOR TO THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FROM VENEZUELA, PRESIDENT PEREZ WAS  
ASKED REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF VENEZUELA REESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC

RELATIONS WITH CUBA. A TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS, AS REPORTED IN  
THE PRESS, FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THIS POSSIBILITY EXISTED FROM THE VERY DAY THAT THEY WERE  
TERMINATED. IT IS NATURAL, CONVENIENT AND DESIRABLE THAT ALL NATIONS  
OF THE WORLD HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND IF WE CONSIDER THAT AN  
AREA SO NEAR, WITH COMMON TRADITIONS AND TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP, THEN  
THE RUPTURE OF RELATIONS IS ABNORMAL AND THE NORMAL WOULD BE  
THE REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. AS I SAID AT THE AIRPORT WHEN I  
SAID CQYDONE TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF COLOMBIA, DR. ALFONSO LOPEZ  
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MICHELSSEN, I RECEIVED WITH PLEASURE THE CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY ALLUSION

OF PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO TO THE POSSIBILITY OF REESTABLISHING RELATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND CUBA. NOW, EVEN WHEN WE CONSIDER THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, SUFFERS FROM DEFICIENCIES, WE BELIEVE THAT UNTIL IT IS REFORMED WE HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO SEEK NO LESS THAN THE FULFILLMENT OF THOSE OBLIGATIONS THAT WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN WITHIN IT. AND WE ASPIRE IN THE NEXT MONTHS WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES TO DISCUSS, IN A SERIOUS AND COMPLETE MANNER, THE PROBLEM RAISED IN PREVIOUS YEARS BY CUBA. WE CONSIDER THAT THE CAUSES WHICH PRODUCED THIS BREAK IN RELATIONS HAVE CEASED AND, ABOVE ALL, NOW THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA IS EXPRESSING ITS DESIRE AND ITS SATISFACTION FOR A RESTRUCTU-

RING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF AMERICA AND THAT COUNTRY. OF COURSE BY NO MANNER CAN WE PRETEND TO OBLIGE THAT SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRY -- AS SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT AS OURSELVES -- TO ENTER INTO THE OAS, AS NEITHER CAN IT ASK US TO DISSOLVE THE OAS IN ORDER TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH OUR GOVERNMENTS. AND I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ON THE RIGHT ROAD AND THAT WE WILL RESOLVE SATISFACTORILY, FOR LATIN AMERICA, THIS SITUATION WHICH FORTUNATELY IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE IN REGARD TO THE ABNORMAL WAY IN WHICH IT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT.

THE SALE OF OUR PETROLEUM DEPENDS ON VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. I BELIEVE THAT WITH THE REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE VENEZUELAN MARKETS WILL BE CUBA CONSIDERING THAT IT IS WITHIN OUR GEOGRAPHIC ORBIT, AND THAT CUBAN SUGAR WILL BE THE PRIMARY SUPPLIER OF OUR DEFICIT. IN SHORT, THAT THE RELATIONS OF COUNTRIES, AS PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS JUST POINTED OUT, SHOULD BE BASED ON THOSE

GREAT POSSIBILITIES OF ECONOMIC COMPLEMENTATION BECAUSE THIS ECONOMIC FACT WILL BE, AS IT HAS BEEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THAT WHICH DEVELOPS OTHER TIES UNTIL THE LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY WILL BE NOT ONLY A COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS BUT A COMMUNITY OF THE WIDEST SOCIOLOGICAL SENSE OF THE WORLD. UNQUOTE

2. ASKED WHETHER PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO WILL BE INVITED TO THE MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF AYACUCHO, PRESIDENT PEREZ SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDED ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO THE QUESTION.

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3. COMMENT. NEITHER THE REPORTER NOR PRESIDENT PEREZ APPARENTLY CAUGHT THE INCONGRUITY OF THE IMPLICATION THAT PRIME MINISTER CASTRO MIGHT REPRESENT CUBA IN PLACE OF PRESIDENT DORTICOS. MCCLINTOCK

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